

## **Samuel Knowles – Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745**

Samuel Knowles, son of Richard Knowles, was born in Eastham in 1651. He married Mercy Freeman who was the granddaughter of Governor Thomas Prentice and his wife Patience Brewster. Samuel and Mercy had a large family. Samuel was a prominent citizen active in Town affairs. He served as selectman and as representative to the General Court. He died in 1737 and is buried in the old section of Orleans Cemetery.

1676

Granted to Samuel Knowles two acres on the westerly side of the head of Town Cove between the highway and the marsh. This grant required Samuel Knowles to maintain stiles along the marsh side for persons to pass. PDF A144, M272, S43, S44.

1682

The Town appointed men to settle the bounds of land which Samuel Knowles inherited from his father which included the old house of his father. The bounds were indicated by stones marked with K. PDF A206, M120.

1693

Granted to Samuel Knowles land at the head of Town Cove next to other Knowles family land. Bounds were indicated by stones marked SK at the corners of the property. PDF A217, M23, P64.

1695

Bounds were set for a five acre lot for Samuel Knowles on the south side or head of Town Cove. The lot was about forty pole by twenty-eight pole. Bounds were indicated by stones marked SK. PDF A206, M121, S99.

1696

Granted to Samuel Knowles an exchange of land. He exchanged five acres of upland on the southerly side of Town Cove for five acres at the head of Great Namskaket between the cartway from Major Freeman's and the meadow of Stephen Hopkins. Bounds were indicated by trees and stones marked with K. Samuel Knowles agreed to not build any cottage or dwelling house on the Namskaket property.  
PDF A252, M251, M253, P68, S72, S73.

Granted to Samuel Knowles the liberty to exchange five acres of upland on the south side of Town Cove for five acres of upland near his barn.  
PDF P68.

1697

Granted to Samuel Knowles for one year the liberty to fence his meadow at the head of Town Cove. The fence ran into the water at both ends of the property. This grant was with the provision that Knowles maintain gates in the fence sufficient for horse and cart to pass. PDF P78.

1701

This grant was related the 1697 fence grant with added provision that Knowles maintain a foot bridge over the creek which ran out of his meadow into Town Cove. Another gate was to be added. Some bounds of the Knowles property were indicated with stones marked SK. The grant was to stand for five years and no more. PDF P98, P101.

1703

Samuel Knowles was chosen along with Israel Cole, Samuel Mayo and Joseph Doane to settle a boundary dispute between Thomas Mulford and the Town at Great Meadow. PDF A266.

1704

The Town confirmed the right of Samuel Knowles to fence the land next to where he lives for the next ten years. Knowles was required to always allow a footway next to Town Cove. Also Knowles was required to repair at his own cost the common way next to his land and next to land of Joshua Hopkins and Jeremiah Smith. PDF P112.

1705

Samuel Knowles made a sworn statement to the Town. First he said that in 1703 several lots of meadow laid out by the Town at Great Meadow encroached and took a considerable quantity of his land which he had bought from Mr. Samuel Treat. He then stated that in consideration of the privilege granted to him to fence his land as recorded in the Town Book of Records he, Samuel Knowles, quit his claim to his land taken by the Town at Great Meadow in 1703. PDF A292.

1706

The Town appointed Samuel Mayo and Joshua Hopkins to settle bounds between land of Samuel Knowles at the head of Town Cove and the undivided or common land. Bounds were indicated by stakes and stones marked with K. Stones indicating bounds of land between Samuel Knowles and Joshua Hopkins were marked with KH. This land was near the Knowles dwelling house on the south side of the cartway. PDF A292, M58, M59.

1707

Granted to Samuel Knowles a parcel of upland and swamp on the western side of his lot near the head of Great Namskaket. The addition was two rods (thirty-three feet) for the entire length of the lot. PDF M36.

1708

Granted to Samuel Knowles all the upland between his lot at the head of Great Namskaket and the meadow of Stephen Hopkins in order to straighten the bounds. PDF A292, M60.

This appears to be a restatement of Samuel Knowles quit claim of 1705 related to the Town taking in 1703 some of his land in Great Meadow. In addition to giving up his claim to the land, Knowles stated that the land in question could be held and enjoyed without hindrance or molestation from him. PDF M60, M61.

Granted to Samuel Knowles all the Common land enclosed by his fence at the head of Town Cove and he was allowed to shut up the highway through his land. The fence went from the water on the north east corner of his lot around the head of the Cove and into the water below the house of Joshua Hopkins. It was required that Knowles allow a foot way for foot persons to conveniently go thru his land using the places where he had set up stiles. PDF M62.

1709

Granted to Samuel Knowles the liberty to exchange ten acres of his upland located near Major Freeman's land for four parcels of land next to his land at the head of Great Namskaket. One parcel of seven acres was next to the northern end on his land at Great Namskaket. Another parcel was two acres of upland in the same area providing Knowles allowed Edward Snow to cart his hay through the Knowles land in the month of October anually. Two more parcels of one-half acre and one-third acre were received by Knowles in the same area. PDF M63, M64.

1710

Granted to Samuel Knowles the liberty to exchange five acres of his land on the east side of Town Cove for five acres at the head of the Cove on the northern side of the swamp. The exchange would take place as soon as Knowles took off his crop of English corn growing on the land on the east side of the Cove. PDF A251, M252, S73.

Granted to Samuel Knowles the liberty to exchange one-half acre of his land at the head of the Cove for three-quarters of an acre between land of Thomas Rich and the highway that goes to Harwich. PDF A179, M80, M81.

1711

Granted to Samuel Knowles three parcels of upland totaling four acres. One parcel was one and one-half acres on the north side of Rock Harbor neck. Another parcel was one-half acre on the south side of Rock Harbor neck next to Knowles fenced land. The third parcel was two acres on the east side of the way that goes from Town to Major Freeman's property. PDF T10.

Granted to Samuel Knowles two parcels of land. One parcel was three and one-half acres at the head of Town Cove in a place called Mr. Treat's old field. The other parcel was one and one-half acres on the west side of his house lot. PDF T18.

Land at Great Island was divided into twenty-four equal sized lots. Lot twelve was granted to Samuel Knowles, Joseph Higgins, Nathaniel Smith and Richard Sparrow. Each lot was about six and one-half acres. PDF T86, T88.

1714

A committee of Samuel Freeman, Daniel Cole, Joseph Doane and Joseph Cole was appointed to set bounds of the 1708 footway on property of Samuel Knowles at the head of Town Cove. The footway was ten feet wide. Bounds were indicated with marked stones. This was to be the only footway through the Knowles property unless the Town and Samuel Knowles could agree otherwise. PDF T190.

1715

The Town required Samuel Knowles to maintain an open way three pole (forty-nine and one-half feet) at the head of Town Cove between his ancient lot and his plain lot which formerly belonged to Mr. Treat. PDF T207.

Granted to Samuel Knowles one and one-half acres on the west side of the roadway near his barn and hay yard. PDF T207.

Granted to Samuel Knowles one and one-half acres near the head of the Cove and on the westerly side of his other land. PDF T207.

Granted to Samuel Knowles about two and one-half acres of wood lot on the westerly end of Cedar Pond between the land of Jeremiah Smith and Ralph Smith. Also granted to Samuel Knowles was all the swamp lying west of Cedar Pond. PDF T273.

Samuel Knowles, Joshua Hopkins and Thomas Rich purchased from the Proprietors for six shillings land on the north side of Rock Harbor meadow next to meadow of Samuel Knowles and meadow of John Paine and meadow of Thomas Williams, deceased. PDF T309.

1716

Granted to Samuel Knowles a parcel of land at the head of Great Namskaket with bounds indicated by marked trees. Dimensions were about thirty-six pole by thirty pole which would be about seven acres. PDF T314.

Granted to Samuel Knowles a parcel of land at the easterly end of his plain lot. Location was not given but this probably was at the head of Town Cove. Dimensions were about six pole by thirty-two pole which would be about one acre. PDF T314.

Granted to Samuel Knowles about one acre next to lots of John Cole and Thomas Rich. PDF T314.

The land owned by Samuel Knowles described in these records amounts to about seventy acres. Up to 1745 thirty-three more Knowles including Samuel's father, Richard, received Eastham land grants.